

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN POETIC GOENAWAN MOHAMAD'S CATATAN PINGGIR

(Gaya Bahasa Puitik Goenawan Mohammad dalam Catatan Pinggir)

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Abstrak

Catatan Pinggir merupakan salah satu bentuk esai yang masuk dalam kategori penulisan jurnalistik. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk menjelaskan pola linguistik yang digunakan oleh Goenawan Mohammad dalam Catatan Pinggir yang menciptakan satu jenis bahasa puitik yang secara estika menjadikan karya ini menjadi satu kesatuan artistik secara menyeluruh/terpadu. Penelitian ini bersifat deskriptif dan kualitatif menggunakan pendekatan berbasis bahasa dan jurnalistik sastra. Sample diperoleh dari berbagai kumpulan Catatan Pinggir 2 Goenawan Mohammad yang dipublikasikan dalam majalah Tempo. Sampel tersebut terdiri dari lima yakni dari 17 Oktober, Gajah Amerika, 1,600 Bangau, Politik Sebagai Panglima dan Ming. Hasil menunjukkan bahwa pola linguistik tampak terbentuk di setiap esainya tersebut. Penelitian Catatan Pinggir yang menggunakan linguistic-based approach membuktikan bahwa pola linguistik terbanyak digunakan adalah kata kongkrit dalam setiap esai, kemudian imajinasi, sugestif, penyimpangan semantik dan register, secara berurutan. Sementara penggunaan terbanyak bahasa puitik adalah komparasi, personifikasi, hiperbola, metafora, sinekdote and ironi, secara berurutan. Ini terbukti bahwa penulis dalam menunjukkan fakta-fakta berita melalui Catatan Pinggir lebih memposisikan dirinya sebagai seorang penyair dibandingkan sebagai seorang jurnalis.

Kata kunci: gaya bahasa, bahasa puitik, Catatan Pinggir Goenawan Mohammad

Abstract

Catatan Pinggir is one of essay forms which belong to journalistic writing. The objectives of the study are to describe the linguistic pattern used by Goenawan Mohammad in Catatan Pinggir that creates a certain kind of poetic language and to describe the poetic language in Catatan Pinggir. The sample is derived from various collections of Goenawan Mohammad's Catatan Pinggir 2 which was published in Tempo magazine. It consists of five essays, namely, *Dari 17 Oktober, Gajah Amerika, 1,600 Bangau, Politik sebagai Panglima, and Ming*. The result shows that the linguistic patterns appear in each essay of Goenawan Mohammad's Catatan Pinggir. The study of Catatan Pinggir proves that the most various linguistic pattern using concrete word in each essay, then imaginative, suggestive, semantic deviation and register, respectively. While the most various poetic language used comparison, personification, hyperbola, metaphor, synecdoche and irony, respectively. This proves that author in presenting news fact in Catatan Pinggir is more positioning himself as a literary man than as a journalist.

Keywords: figurative language, poetic language, Catatan Pinggir Goenawan Mohammad's

A. Introduction

The development of society in modern life demands people to adjust to their environment, otherwise they will be left behind in their society. One of the indications of this development is the increasing needs of communication media. If it is traditional society, the communication can be conducted in a simple way. Conveying an intention, for example, it can be conducted in direct meetings instead of utilizing modern communication tools. In such a way, people can directly interact and communicate one another. Communication in this stage is called the interpersonal communication.

The development of media causes journalism to revolve rapidly in case of conveying idea in the forms of writing. In past time, the news report was dominated by classic guidance, 5 W + 1 H (What, When, Where, Why, Who and How) that was based on the facts that were found. The new form of journalism offers something new which is actually the reformulation of classic guidance. One of the leaders of Poynter Institute Florida is Roy Peter who developed the new concept about transformed the classic concept into a narrative model. In narratives, 'Who' is character, 'What' is plot, 'Where' is setting, 'When' is chronology, 'Why' is motive, and 'How' is narration. This new concept makes the news that is given in narrative really looks like a documentary film. It has become a new trend of journalism (Nurudin, 2009).

New journalism which is commonly known as literary journalism is the way of passing on news and information by applying literary creation in non-fiction writing. New journalism was initially introduced by Tom Wolfe, a journalist of New York Herald Tribune, in 1960. According to Wolfe (1972), new journalism or literary journalism is a reporting and writing technique which evolves into a new genre of journalism. In its development, new journalism is known better as literary journalism due to the literary elements that are applied.

In Indonesia, *Tempo* magazine is the first media that applies the literary style on journalistic writings. Despite the popularity in 1990s, literary journalism was firstly introduced and applied by *Tempo* magazine in 1970, Goenawan Mohamad (2007).

The reason why *Tempo* has been very capable of adopting, applying and integrating this new journalism into their reporting style is because many of the crews and staffs of *Tempo* – journalists, photographers and even the directors – know and understand literature very well. It results in the way of their writing about facts that is so influenced by literary style. They are really competent in using the literary techniques and in applying literary elements on their journalistic reports (Saenab, 2010).

Literary journalism, in Santana (2002) states then existed on many kinds of writings such as travelling

journal, memoir, historical and ethnographical essays, a number of fictions and even ambiguous semi-fictions that were inspired by real events.

Literary journalism can be associated as a part of creative non-fiction writing. However, unlike creative non-fiction writing that only depicts a genre of a piece of writing; 'journalistic' depicts not only genre but also editorial and exhibits photography works as stated by Blair (2006).

Journalistic and mass media are two inevitable things in modern society. The global change that occurs and is experienced by global society shows that mass media have vital roles that are exceeding the limitations of social institutions. Consequently, mass media are placed in a social status of which existence is taken into consideration in a society. Mass media will be the gathering agent of socialization for the other social institutions. (Bill, [et.al](#) :2007).

Catatan Pinggir has something special that cannot be found in any other similar article. The Ideas have an unusual sharpness. Materials are presented personally, familiarly, and intimately. That is why, its presenting is very different from the presentation of any other journalistic prose in general. It is due to the poetical elements that are applied. The elements can be found in the diction, sentence pattern and figurative language in the

words and the sentences on *Catatan Pinggir*.

The other aspect of linguistic pattern and poetic language are applied on *Catatan Pinggir*. Semantic deviation, register, suggestive word, imaginative word, and concrete word, metaphore, comparasion, personafication, hyperbole, synecdoche, and irony are mingled and consolidated within the texts although they are not as tight as a poem. Goenawan Mohamad's shows a strong poetical atmosphere on the presentation of his essays, *Catatan Pinggir*, on *Tempo* weekly news magazine.

Based on the explanation above, the writer is intrested in investigating observing "**Figurative Language Poetic in Goenawan Mohamad's *Catatan Pinggir***", through a literary journalism analysis.

B. Instrument And Method Of Research

This research was descriptive research Goenawan Mohammad's of rubrics *Catatan Pinggir* 2 that analyzed poetic text. The research was designed to describe a phenomenon or situation with simple statiscal. The writer observed linguistic pattern and poetic language that aroused in the journalistic essay writing.

C. Population and Sampel

Siswantoro (2010), explained that purposive sampling is sampling

that are adjusted to the purpose of research. The population of this research was obtained from *Catatan Pinggir* that was written by Goenawan Mohamad's. *Catatan Pinggir 2* is regarded as a journalistic essay that uses literary style form. The book of *Catatan Pinggir 2* was used as population in this research consists of 12 Chapters. The sample of research was used purposive sampling technique. The writer took 5 (five) text or script as the sample of this research namely, *Dari 17 Oktober, Gajah Amerika, 1,600 Bangau, Politik sebagai Panglima, and Ming*.

D. Data Collection

In collecting data, the writer read *Catatan Pinggir 2* after that classified and grouped the data based on linguistic pattern and poetic language used by Goenawan Mohamad. The data collection is observational from *Catatan Pinggir 2* Books of Goenawan Mohamad's in *Tempo* magazine that was first published in 1989 by PT Grafiti's Pustaka. The cover and illustration designer by S Prinka's, 364 pages, and ISBN 979 96724 4 9.

E. Data Analysis

The data have been collected, analyzed by using descriptive approach by the following: 1) Identifying, 2) classifying both linguistic pattern and poetic language in a form table, and 3)

analyzing both linguistic pattern and poetic language.

F. Research Findings

The findings of research covers the description of the result of the data analysis that *Catatan Pinggir* in many cases is more like a story than an opinion that takes a position, a news with long commentary and extensive annotation rather than an analysis that can be checked for consistency, a plot that is designed with a neat idea for a meeting and conflict of intellectual ideas, but rather a *think-piece* that was developed in a linear or built architectonically. This position seems to need to be clarified so that no injustice intellectual, because from this writings, the people hoped something that is not a claim or in which these essays are expected to answer the question posed.

Words and sentences in *Catatan Pinggir* are used uniquely. Poetic value contained in it. It was seen in the following discussion is comprised of linguistic pattern and poetic language.

Type I, II, III, IV, IV and V are number of essay in the *Catatan Pinggir*. Each essay has been analyzed based on linguistic pattern that consist of semantic deviation, register, suggestive, imagination and a concrete. While the one that is based on poetic language that consist of metaphor, comparison, personification, hyperbola, synecdoche and irony. The next columns that are marked by "N" and "%" indicate number of sentences that have been analyzed in accordance with

linguistic pattern and poetic language, figures that are written in each column indicate number of sentences that belong to each of the essays possessing division of linguistic pattern and poetic language. Under “%” sign shows number of percentage that each division of linguistic pattern and poetic language of each essay, percentage calculation is 100, for instance semantic deviation and others in linguistic pattern is totally 27, while semantic deviation on essay I is only 2, making 2 against 27 equally 7 %.

The largest linguistic pattern is shown on essay V (28), I (27), II (25), III (18) and IV (14). While, in poetic language is known that the largest poetic language is shown on essay III (20), V (19), II (15), IV (15) and I (8). Therefore, it can be known that in each essay the largest value of both linguistic pattern and poetic language is indicated on essay V (47), II (40), III (38), I (35) and IV (29).

G. Discussion

In *Catatan Pinggir*, the linguistic pattern appear formed, although not as tight and sharp as poetry, but the nuance of poetry seemed to haunt the style of presentation his essays in this Tempo Weekly News Magazine. This seems to cause the essay of *Catatan Pinggir* have typical values. And the poetic languages is also formed as indicated on each essay Goenawan Mohammad’s *Catatan Pinggir*.

His ideas have sharpness, and foresight, which is unusual. Although moving in the range of actual problems of society, which is owned by Tempo journalism, but the problem is expressed often unexpected. The author does not want to fall into the habit of exposing media issues. He took the theme of press, for example, through the negative idea about the press as a reflection of society. However, carried by association and metaphor associated with the reader's own humanity. Readers who are grumpy mood, grouch, or the celebrity star dreamer, is taken to be subject describe it.

Through such an idea, he reported the narrative is presented through a personal way as when someone told the people closest intimate, intimate, and spent a formality spaces.

At this point, the presentation of literary style emerged. Literary style used was poet. A speech style expressively, dense, short, and individual. Diction and sentence structure was to be not as prosaic as where it should. His style is annoying from writer’s habit of Indonesia journalism.

All of that is caused also by its orientation that wants to develop a wealth of Indonesian language. He refused to repetition of the language of mass media in general. He was evasive to obey the plain language style of journalism, a poetic value that seems to come from there.

H. Conclusions

The main conclusion of this thesis, the researcher put the main point that in Goenawan Mohamad's *Catatan Pinggir*, the linguistic pattern appears in each of his essay. The most various linguistic patterns are shown on essay V (28), I (27), II (25), III (18) and IV (14), respectively. While, the poetic language is widely obtainable in essay III (20), V (19), II (15), IV (15) and I (8); on overall, the essays that covers widely the values of both linguistic pattern and poetic language are indicated in essay V (47), II (40), III (38), I (35) and IV (29), respectively. The study of *Catatan Pinggir* proves that most various linguistic pattern used are concrete word in each essay, then imaginative, suggestive, and semantic deviation and register respectively. While most various poetic languages used is comparison, personification, hyperbola, metaphor, synecdoche and irony, respectively. In linguistic pattern, most various indicators is concrete word, this is dedicated to clarify that statements in each essay. The fact of journalistic writing indicates characteristic personally, descriptive-informative, persuasive-aesthetic and poetical view. The use of comparison in poetic language as the existing most various indicators is meant to clarify statements in each essay by distinguishing the facts that are written in literary elements.

The further study the researcher must be participated as the observer, in the trying to open a space of

interdisciplinary exploration of theoretical research : linking the poetic language (literature) and journalistic (communication science). In conception, poetic elements woven into a different style of prose writing. Though theoretically anyway, essay journalism, the rules associated with prose writing. The result is tentative, a hypothesis that still needs further study.

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APPENDIX

Table 1.

| Type | I | | II | | III | | IV | | V | |
|------------------------------|----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|----|----------------|
| | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % |
| I. LINGUISTIC PATTERN | | | | | | | | | | |
| a. Semantic deviation | 2 | 7 | 1 | 4 | - | 0 | 2 | 14 | - | 0 |
| b. Register | - | 0 | - | 0 | - | 0 | 1 | 7 | 4 | $\frac{1}{4}$ |
| c. Suggestive | 2 | 7 | - | 0 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 14 | 1 | 4 |
| d. Imajinatif | 4 | 15 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 39 | 4 | 28 | 8 | $\frac{2}{9}$ |
| e. Concrete Word | 19 | 70 | 22 | 88 | 10 | 55 | 5 | 36 | 15 | $\frac{5}{3}$ |
| TOTAL | 27 | 100 | 25 | 100 | 18 | 100 | 14 | 100 | 28 | $\frac{1}{00}$ |
| II. POETIC LANGUAGE | | | | | | | | | | |
| a. Metaphor | 1 | 12 | 3 | 20 | 5 | 25 | 3 | 20 | 1 | 5 |
| b. Comparison | 2 | 25 | - | 0 | 3 | 15 | 7 | 47 | 13 | $\frac{6}{8}$ |
| c. Personification | 2 | 25 | 4 | 27 | 6 | 30 | 3 | 20 | 1 | 5 |
| d. Hyperbola | 3 | 37 | 3 | 20 | 4 | 20 | 1 | 7 | 4 | $\frac{2}{1}$ |
| e. Synecdoche | - | 0 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 10 | 1 | 7 | - | 0 |
| f. Irony | - | 0 | 4 | 27 | - | 0 | - | 0 | - | 0 |
| TOTAL | 8 | 100 | 15 | 100 | 20 | 100 | 15 | 100 | 19 | $\frac{1}{00}$ |

Table 2.

| Topics | I | | II | | III | | IV | | V | |
|--------------------|----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|
| | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % |
| Linguistic Pattern | 27 | 77 | 25 | 63 | 18 | 47 | 14 | 48 | 28 | 56 |
| Poetic Language | 8 | 23 | 15 | 37 | 20 | 53 | 15 | 52 | 19 | 40 |
| Total | 35 | 100 | 40 | 100 | 38 | 100 | 29 | 100 | 47 | 100 |